

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO MCEB WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

OTP WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

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USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6514

E.O. 11652: ADS: DECLASS 12-31-75

TAGS: MARR, FR, NATO

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-
ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE (NJCEC)

REFS: A. PO/74/154, NOV 21, 74

B. USNATO 6114, 041635Z NOV 74

C. STATE 248809, 120031Z NOV 74

SUMMARY: ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL HAS ISSUED REF A IN WHICH HE
PROPOSES FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NJCEC ON A PART I/PART II BASIS,
AND TEXT OF A LETTER TO THE FRENCH PERM REP AT NATO CONCERNING
FRENCH PARTICIPATION. TEXT IS REPEATED BELOW. HIS PROPOSAL CONFORMS
TO WASHINGTON GUIDANCE (REFS B AND C) END SUMMARY.

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1. QUOTE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 31ST OCTOBER, 1974, WHICH I
WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO RECEIVE BECAUSE THE PARTICIPATION OF
FRANCE IN APPROPRIATE ASPECTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATO JOINT
COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE (NJCEC) CAN ONLY BE OF BENEFIT

TO THE COHERENCE OF THE NATO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NJCEC AND OF THE CHARTER OF THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ORGANIZATION (NICS) WOULD ALLOW FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A PART I/PART II CONFIGURATION. ALSO, THE CHARTER, IN PARAGRAPH 3(A), EXPLICITLY MENTIONS THAT THE NJCEC IS RESPONSIBLE TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THOSE MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMAND STRUCTURE AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD SAFEGUARD THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH FRANCE HAS TAKEN PART IN NATO ACTIVITIES SINCE 1966.

AS THINGS STAND AT THE MOMENT, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PROBLEMS PRESENTLY BEING ADDRESSED BY THE NJCEC DEAL WITH THE ONGOING PROJECTS OF THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (NICS), IN WHICH FRANCE DOES NOT PARTICIPATE. AT THIS STAGE, THEREFORE, THE NUMBER OF ITEMS WHICH WILL FALL INTO PART I OF THE NJCEC AGENDA WILL BE RATHER LIMITED.

YOU WILL RECALL, HOWEVER, THAT, AS A RESULT OF AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN US, A FRENCH LIAISON WITH THE NICSMA HAS BEEN SET UP. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THROUGH THIS OFFICE THAT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES CAN, WHEN THEY SO DESIRE, INDICATE THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST, WHICH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, NICSMA, WOULD THEN BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE NJCEC. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT, IN SUCH A CASE, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND POSSIBLY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS BEFORE FRANCE COULD FULLY PARTICIPATE.

MOREOVER, THERE MAY BE ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO FRANCE (E.G. A NATO COMMUNICATIONS POLICY). I HAVE THEREFORE INSTRUCTED THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS, TO BRING SUCH ITEMS TO YOUR ATTENTION IF AND WHEN THEY COME UP SO THAT FRANCE CAN DECIDE ON HER PARTICIPATION.

FINALLY, AND AS A POINT OF PROCEDURE, I HAVE, OF COURSE, SOUGHT THE AGREEMENT OF THE OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES ON THIS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT THEY HAVE WARMLY WELCOMED AND AGREED THE FOREGOING. END QUOTE.

2. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED, MISSION WILL APPROVE REF A BY SILENCE PROCEDURE.
MCAULIFFE

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TAGS: MARR, FR, NATO
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